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'ARAFAT MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN, LEBANESE CADRES

JN301905Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1600 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, yesterday evening met with cadres of factions of the Palestinian revolution and cadres of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement at the headquarters of the 3d Battalion of the Al-Yarmuk forces in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon.

During this expanded meeting brother Abu 'Ammar explained the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the current political situation on the local, Arab and international levels.

The brother commander in chief stated that the main aim of the conspiracy to which the Palestinian revolution is being subjected is to deal a blow to its armed struggle and to the cohesion in struggle between the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed the importance of Palestinian national unity. He added that unity of Palestinian guns is urgently needed in order to confront all kinds of conspiracies and to enable the Palestinian revolution to continue its revolutionary march until victory.

He referred to his latest visit to Aden and San'a' and its results. Brother Abu 'Ammar then answered questions from those present. Afterward he had breakfast with the fighters of the 3d Battalion and the cadres of the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: SPLIT EXPECTED AMONG PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS

JN3014222Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1330 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Aug--The Kuwaiti daily AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today writes that the democratic dialog which pervaded the Palestine Central Council at its recent meeting in Damascus will lead to a division of the Palestinian rejectionist front and a consolidation of Palestinian national unity.

The paper quoted informed Palestinian sources in Damascus as saying that the Palestinian Liberation Front, headed by Abu al-'Abbas, should dissolve itself within a few days and that its elements should join the Palestinian national liberation front, Fatah. The sources added that other small Palestinian organizations in the rejectionist front should follow the example of the Palestinian Liberation Front.

KUWAIT

PRIME MINISTER DENIES IMMINENT GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

LD3013402 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, crown prine and prime minister of Kuwait, has denied that a new cabinet will be formed in Kuwait in October. He said that the government will stay unchanged.

In an interview with AS-SIYASAH, the Kuwaiti crown prince spoke of cooperation and coordination among the gulf states.

On the Camp David summit on 5 September, the crown prince called for patience about knowing the results, not to anticipate events.

CABINET HEARS REPORTS ON 'ARAFAT VISIT, DOLLAR

LD3018362 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] The cabinet held an extraordinary session this morning under the chairmanship of the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah.

After the meeting Jasim al-Narzu, the minister of education and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that the cabinet began its meeting by hearing a report by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, about PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Kuwait in connection with the efforts to remove the differences existing between the Yemen Arab Republic and the PDRY.

The minister pointed out that the cabinet also heard a report by the minister of oil, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, about the visits which he had paid to the Iraqi republic, the UAE and Qatar, and a report about the efforts being made to lay down a single oil policy to deal with the fall of the dollar and its effect on the revenues of the oil exporting countries.

The acting minister of state said that the cabinet followed the news of the clashes that took place between Algeria and Morocco. He added that while the cabinet expresses its regret at this incident, it hopes that matters will be handled with wisdom and reason between the parties concerned.

PRIME MINISTER WARNS OF BIG POWERS' PLANS IN REGION

NC3016252 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 30 August--Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has called on the Arab states to await the results of the tripartite Camp David summit conference. He said that there might be new elements and that the pessimistic views might change.

In an interview published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AS-SIYASAH, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah called for coordination and integration among the gulf area states and awareness of what surrounds the area.

He said: The eyes of the world are open wide on this oil-rich region. We must not allow ourselves to be robbed by the forces which do not want our rich region to be stable.

The Kuwaiti prime minister expressed the hope that the bilateral contacts between the gulf states and the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers at the United Nations might result in some kind of coordination, and that it might be decided later to hold a broad meeting in one of the gulf region states.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah has warned of the existence of a plan by the big powers to kindle violent incidents, local explosions or sectarian friction or to stir up the feelings of social groups to create class conflict.

He said that when these forces, which benefit from stirring up riots, fail to disturb internal security, they begin to incite border problems between one state and another, drawing them to the brink of war for purposes which ultimately aim at serving these foreign forces.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah said that the recent events in Iran do not serve the stability of the region and any abnormal situation in Iran will have repercussions on the gulf states and the security balance in this area.

SAUDI ARABIA

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ON FUKUDA'S UPCOMING VISIT

LD3109207 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Jidda--Nobuo Oguchi, Japan's ambassador to the Kingdom, stressed that his country attaches great importance to the talks which Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda will conduct with senior officials in the Kingdom during his visit next September.

In a statement published by AL-BILAD today, the Japanese ambassador said that there are vast common interests between the two countries which will be discussed. He pointed out that oil issues, the question of the Middle East and the monetary situation will be at the top of the agenda, and that these will be discussed with frankness.

PAKISTAN'S HAQ ARRIVES IN JIDDA ON PRIVATE VISIT

LD3010557 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0955 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Jidda--His Excellency Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, chief martial law administrator of Pakistan, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Jidda at noon today on a private visit to the Kingdom during which he will perform the minor pilgrimage and visit the Prophet's Mosque.

YEMEN--PDRY

DEFENSE MINISTER HAILS FORTHCOMING ARMY DAY

LD3015567 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir, member of the Central Committee and of the Presidential Council and defense minister, has said that the celebration of national armed forces day will be very important this year and will have a deeper meaning in terms of the United Political Organization, the National Front (UPONF), the government of the revolution and all the toilers of the PDRY.

The brother told the ADEN NEWS AGENCY:

The celebration of national armed forces day on 1 September is marked this year [words indistinct] progressive regime in our country as reflected in the destruction of the opportunist leftist current led by the deviationist Rubayyi' and his clique. Our armed forces played a brave part in the logical halting of this deviationist current and demonstrated that it was a revolutionary force in the hands of the UPONF which can direct it in defense of the gains of the revolution and maintenance of the people's national independence against the conspiracies of the imperialist and reactionary forces.

Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir spoke of the reactionary and imperialist plots currently being hatched against our revolution and our people to drag the Yemeni people into [words indistinct]. He said: Our armed forces will not be dragged into the furnace of civil war, but if war is imposed, then no power in the region will stay secure from the consequences.

Col 'Ali Ahmad Nasir will deliver a speech on behalf of the organization and the state in the big speech and artistic gathering to be staged in the national theater in Tawahi this evening to mark the occasion.

YEMEN--YAR

MINISTER DENIES MASSING TROOPS ON PDRY BORDER

JN300905Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Jidda, 30 August--YAR Interior Minister Lt Col Muhsin al-Yusufi has refuted the allegations that his country is massing troops on the PDRY border. He also denied that foreign and mercenary troops are stationed in his country.

The YAR interior minister said that the PDRY is putting out fabricated and baseless reports to cover up its domestic situation and its plans against the YAR.

In an interview published in the Saudi paper AL-BILAD today, the YAR interior minister said that Yemeni military forces and civilians will strike at those playing havoc with the security of the area. He said: We are prepared to defend ourselves against any attempt aimed at harming our sovereignty.

REPORTS ON 'ARAFAT'S MEDIATION MISSION DENIED

JN300958Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 30 August--An official spokesman in San'a' denied today the reports of the nature of the mission of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Yemen and his talks with President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

The spokesman asserted that these reports are baseless because President Salih did not discuss with 'Arafat the relations between the two parts of Yemen.

It is noted that 'Arafat made the statement in Kuwait yesterday that he had succeeded in his mission of conciliation between the governments of the two parts of Yemen.

AS-SADAT CHAIRS 30 AUG NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

NC302025Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Ismailia, 30 Aug--The Egyptian National Security Council met this evening in Ismailia under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Eng Sayyid Mar'i, Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, ASU Central Committee First Secretary Dr Mustafa Khalil, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, Interior Minister Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il, and the chief of intelligence.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the Egyptian plan for the tripartite Camp David conference on the Middle East conflict, in light of the file prepared by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on all aspects of the crisis in the area.

Further Details

NC302316Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2259 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, during today's meeting of the National Security Council, reaffirmed that Egypt will be fully committed at the Camp David tripartite conference to a comprehensive settlement insuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and to rejecting the principle of partial solutions. He also emphasized that Egypt is committed to achieving a just peace in the Middle East--peace that cannot be established unless the Palestinian problem is solved and unless sovereignty and territory are not infringed on. These are the same principles to which Egypt has committed itself from the beginning of the crisis.

During its meeting tonight in Ismailia, the National Security Council discussed the positions of the parties attending the Camp David Conference. These are the positions declared in official statements as well as the positions voiced by the United States and Israel in past talks.

AL-AHRAM says that the council also discussed the attitudes of the Arab states and the possibilities regarding the Arab attitude toward the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Statement Issued

NC302351Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The National Security Council met Wednesday evening in Ismailia under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat. The press secretary at the president's office made the following statement after the meeting:

The National Security Council has met to review the latest developments in the Middle East situation before the convening of the tripartite summit conference at Camp David. The council reviewed the studies and reports prepared for the conference, dealing with the issues of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, their right to self-determination, the question of Jerusalem and its place in the final settlement.

The council also discussed the various aspects of the question of security and the right of every state in the region to live peacefully within its secure borders.

The council then studied the U.S. diplomatic position on the Middle East, especially after it changed from the role of mediator to the role of full partner, and the results of such a change as far as boosting the peace process in the area is concerned.

The council emphasized that Egypt, by participating in the Camp David conference, aims to achieve the following:

1. A comprehensive settlement, which means the rejection of any partial or bilateral agreement.

2. A permanent and just settlement, which means rejection of any temporary or phased solution.

The national Security Council also discussed the alternative strategy to be applied in the phase after the Camp David phase, in the light of the various possibilities and alternative developments which must be taken into consideration in view of the possible results of this conference.

CAIRO: HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER SENDS LETTERS TO AS-SADAT, BEGIN

NC310700Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] James Wright, the majority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, has demanded Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a national homeland for the Palestinians.

This came in two letters which Wright sent to President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. In his letters, Wright emphasizes that the solution of the Middle East question lies in Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people to establish a demilitarized homeland linked with Jordan.

AL-AKHBAR ATTACKS SOVIET STAND ON CAMP DAVID

NC310832Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports today that Egypt has defined its position on the Camp David discussions. Egypt has announced this position in a clear statement. This position is based on implementing the strategy which the Arab nation has agreed upon and which emphasizes the total withdrawal from all Arab territories in the West Bank, Golan, Gaza and Sinai, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and resolving the situation vis-a-vis the Arab issue.

Egypt reiterated yesterday this position, which it has declared more than once before. It committed itself to this position as a historic responsiblity, which it has imposed on itself and for which it has exerted efforts, made sacrifices and assumed burdens. In doing so, Egypt does not seek to please or anger anybody. This is a responsibility toward the Arab nation which Egypt will not abandon. It will not accept any bargains regardless of the efforts and sacrifices it will make in discharging this duty.

AL-AKHBAR adds: When Egypt was announcing this position to the Arab nation and the entire world, the Soviet propaganda trumpets in Moscow and the trumpets of the subservient states which use exclusively Soviet propaganda came out to reiterate the myth of partial solutions and bilateral settlements.

Moscow radio shamelessly reports that the Camp David conference is nothing but a move to sign a military agreement among the United States, Israel and Egypt and that some other Arab states might join in signing this agreement later. In their feverish campaigns, the Soviet propaganda trumpets see nothing shameful in telling lies. There is no limit to their frivolous fabrications.

The paper goes on: It appears that Moscow has lost its senses and that the possible success of the Camp David conference in reaching a decisive stand on the path of peace has made Moscow fumble in its allegations and fabrications. Its latest effort is to bring Khaddam from Syria to work out with him an evil and noisy plan against the Camp David conference and its possible results.

MUSA SABRI ANALYZES PROSPECTS FOR CAMP DAVID TALKS

LD3013427 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Aug 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Musa Sabri article: "What Do We Expect of 'Camp David'?"]

[Text] There is hardly a newspaper in the world that is not speaking about the forthcoming Camp David conference. Also, there is hardly a radio in the world that is not saying something about the conference, either in the form of a report or a commentary.

The secret behind this great interest is obvious. The conference represents the last hope for peace, as [Saudi Deputy Prime Minister] Amir Fahd has said. The conference represents a decisive step on the part of the U.S. President after the Egyptian-Israeli talks entered the vicious cycle stage and after President Anwar as-Sadat declared that he will not sit with Begin unless Israel has something new to offer, including Israel's acceptance of the principle of a total withdrawal.

Statements made in Israel--and they are quite numerous--indicate that Begin will offer nothing new, except perhaps a new play on words. The Israeli prime minister will stop in New York--the bastion of Zionism--in order to arrange matters before going on to Camp David. This means that Begin wants to prepare U.S. public opinion to accept his intransigence and insistence, under various pretexts, on keeping the occupied territories in the West Bank.

There is no doubt that the Zionist propaganda machine is now working at full speed so that Begin, after this decisive step, will not appear as one who has killed every hope for peace.

For this reason we see that U.S. statements by President Carter, Vice President Mondale, his adviser Brzezinski, and his Secretary of State Vance are deliberately not optimistic about reaching decisive results in progressing toward peace at the summit meeting. These statements are extremely cautious in explaining the U.S. role. Sometimes we hear that Carter will not submit any U.S. plan and at other times we hear that Carter's aim is to push President as-Sadat and Begin toward reaching understanding and overcoming differences and that Carter might submit to the two sides a number of views and proposals which he thinks might help overcome difficulties.

As usual, Begin wants to turn the public's attention from the essence of the problem and the facts of the Israeli stand on keeping the land, to the manner in which the talks will be conducted. Therefore, he raised a storm about the U.S. role; whether it is a partner's role, as the U.S. secretary of state said, or the role of an "honest" mediator, as Israel wants it to be. Begin is raising this storm because a partner has a right to submit a comprehensive plan, whereas a mediator only tries to bring the conflicting views closer without being responsible for submitting a plan of his own should the other parties reject one another's plan. [paragraph continues]

It is known that Egypt rejects the Israeli plan just as Israel rejects the Egyptian plan.

U.S. sources close to the White House said that President Carter is risking his prestige as the president of the world's biggest and most powerful state by calling for the conference, because should the conference fail he will be compelled to declare the reasons for its failure; he will also be compelled to declare the adoption of a positive attitude toward the side responsible for the failure. And since much of the world commentary expects from now that Mr Begin's arrogance will lead to the conference's failure, this means that President Carter must prepare himself to adopt a U.S. stand that would oppose such arrogance, call a spade a spade, and would indeed lead to the establishment of peace whether Mr Begin likes it or not.

This was what Israel's number one lawyer in the United States, Senator Javits, warned against. He clearly said that Begin's intransigence would lead to United States intervention with a U.S. plan, something which Israel's lawyer wants to avoid.

The principal problems that the previous direct negotiations have failed to reach agreement on center on three subjects in particular:

Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories;

Israeli security; and

Palestinian rights.

The United States is committed to the Security Council resolution providing for withdrawal from occupied territories in Egypt, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza.

As for Israel, it refuses to withdraw from the West Bank, sometimes under the pretext that it is an Israeli land and other times under the pretext of its security.

With regard to Egypt, total withdrawal from Sinai is an international as well as a U.S. commitment.

With regard to the West Bank, the U.S. commitment is Israeli withdrawal with some "slight" border alterations for security considerations.

Therefore, there is a basic difference between the United States and Israel on the question of withdrawal and there is a negotiable difference between Egypt and the United States regarding these slight alterations.

With regard to Israeli security, Egypt has refuted all Israeli arguments regarding Israeli security. Moreover, the United States is prepared to offer anything that would fully guarantee Israel's security.

A few days ago we read a statement by Carter's adviser Brzezinski that the United States is prepared to station U.S. forces in the West Bank in order to insure Israeli security in return for ending Israeli military presence in this area.

Here we see that there is a radical difference between the United States and Israel, because Begin clearly wants to exploit the security pretext in order to keep the land. As for his contention that the West Bank is a liberated Israeli land, it is totally rejected by the United States and by every reasonable person.

I do not think that there is a basic difference between Egypt and the United States on the question of security. Egypt has clearly declared that it does not reject any imaginable or unimaginable security measure on the condition that Israel totally withdraws from the occupied territories.

There remains the question of Palestinian rights. The United States agrees with Israel on two basic things: no negotiations with the PLO and no establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Here there is a basic difference between Egypt and the United States. The outlet for this difference was the Aswan declaration, which recognizes the rights of the Palestinians to participate in determining their future. But this outlet expresses a general principle and great efforts will be needed to deal with the details so as to reach a clear solution insuring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

From this I would draw the conclusion that there are differences between Egypt and the United States on the basis of the peaceful solution. There are also differences between Israel and the United States. The U.S.-Israeli differences, however, are stronger and more complicated and, therefore, more difficult to solve.

There is pressure by some of the American and European Jews who support Israel's right to total security but do not support Begin's intransigence in closing all doors.

There is pressure by a group of U.S. congressmen--which is growing larger--who have become fully convinced that Anwar as-Sadat's leadership is the one that is capable of establishing peace, that this leadership is sincere and that Begin must change his stand.

There is also pressure from the U.S. administration and public opinion in general, based on the belief that peace is in the interest of protecting U.S. national interests in the Middle East, including safeguarding oil supplies and halting Soviet penetration in this vital area. It can no longer be said that Israel is capable of protecting U.S. national interests.

For this reason I would say that our chances at the Camp David conference are better. Saudi Arabia has declared its support for this conference, as has Jordan. Saudi Arabia is a basic element in the balance of U.S. interests and Jordan is one of the confrontation states. Jordan's participation in any future negotiations is also an important element with regard to the situation in the West Bank and the Palestinian participation in self-determination.

I believe that it is premature to predict the outcome of the Camp David conference, for it depends on what goes on at these talks and on Carter's performance of his role. The U.S. President has notified both sides that he is prepared to devote 10 days to this task, which means that he fully appreciates the risk of failure and the difficult role he has to play. Joseph Sisco, Kissinger's former assistant, described the Camp David conference as a good gamble and not a dangerous gamble by the U.S. President.

According to some views, the Camp David conference is expected to lead to a clearly worded declaration of principles that might be acceptable to Egypt as well as to Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Afterwards, the parties would take the next step, direct negotiations on implementing these principles.

According to other views, the conference is expected to lead to a step subsequent to the declaration of principles; namely, that serious talks will actually take palce with regard to all details, which would subsequently facilitate direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel and between Jordan and Israel.

According to yet other views, the conference is expected to result in a declaration of the failure of U.S. efforts to bring views closer, in which case everybody will be waiting to see what becomes of the U.S. role after that.

Here I must put down on record a reservation of which the United States and Israel are well aware--that Anwar as-Sadat will declare to the whole world and to the Arab people all the facts, whether the conference succeeds or fails. Should the conference fail, however, it would mean the beginning of a new, serious era. But first we must work for the success of the conference before we speak about this new, serious era.

There remains one point to be taken into consideration while talking about the possibilities of the Camp David conference. It is that President Carter's popularity is on the decline for domestic reasons. He himself has spoken about this subject and declared that he is trying to regain his popularity. The Zionist forces want to exploit this situation and, therefore, want to capitalize on the decline of Carter's popularity.

The rise or decline of the popularity of the head of state, however, is not always something constant. Carter's popularity can rise to a peak if he can salvage peace at the Camp David conference. There is no doubt that the U.S. public and the Congress wish him success in saving peace. There is no doubt also that the clarity of Egypt's stand, the status of President as-Sadat in the United States and the trust in his sincerity toward the cause of peace are elements that will help President Carter in his historical task.

Finally, these are the facts about the Egyptian struggle for peace. On the other hand, Iraq, Syria and the PLO are busy with a more important problem--the problem of "Abu Nidal," the exchange of bullets, assassinations and accusations of treason and agentry for imperialism.

Is this not indeed a regrettable situation?

CAIRO COURT APPROVES CONFISCATION OF AL-AHALI

NC3014447Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug--The South Cairo Court under the presidency of Counselor Anwar Abu Sahla today approved the confiscation of the 27th edition of the newspaper AL-AHALI, which was due to appear today.

The court based its decision on the fact that the newspaper continues to stir up feelings and cast doubts, not caring about the critical circumstances through which the country is passing.

The court also decided that the manner in which the subjects were dealt with in the edition creates hatred and sedition between classes and that the subjects published will disturb public security. Hence, in accordance with the provision of Articles 102 and 198 of the penal code, the court endorses the order to confiscate the edition.

The edition which was due to appear today is the seventh to be confiscated since the paper resumed publication.

BAGHDAD: ARMED UNITS FORMED TO PROTECT AL-ASAD REGIME

JN302100Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The Syrian national movement has obtained a report from the general staff building in Damascus that exposes the antinationalist and anti-pan-Arab policy which the regime of the Al-Asad family is pursuing in the army and the armed forces. The report, broadcast by the Voice of Arab Syria this evening, said that the situation in the armed forces has deteriorated to the lowest point since the 5 June 1967 setback.

The report said this deterioration is shown in the low level of training and light armament in those military units in which the Al-Asad regime is not confident of loyalty to its policy. This is in addition to a general state of despair and low morale in the army and armed forces.

The report attributed this serious phenomenon to several causes, primarily that Hafiz al-Asad's family has appropriated huge sums of money for the defense squads that are directly under the command of Hafiz al-Asad and his brother Rif'at. The report points out that these defense squads have become a second army, completely independent of the Syrian Arab Army.

The report says that another factor that has led to the deterioration in the ranks of the armed forces is the formation of military units in addition to the defense squads, which constitute a third army separate from the defense squads and the official army.

The report says that as part of the Al-Asad family regime's plan to limit the mission of the armed forces to keeping itself in power, it has begun to form a fourth army. This army will be mainly equipped with armored vehicles and its mission will be to maintain security in the country.

In conclusion, the report says that the emphasis on the defense squads and the forces of Muhammad Haydar, as well as the formation of armored units to protect the regime, have divided the armed forces in a way that will prevent them from carrying out their combat mission in the service of national and pan-Arab interests. The report says that these actions have created a state of indignation in the majority of armed forces units. The Al-Asad family regime is trying by all means to prevent their wrath from turning into a large-scale uprising that would overthrow the backward regime in Damascus. The report says that, among other precautionary measures, the Damascus rulers keep the fuel supply bases for the army vehicles empty in order to immobilize them in case of an emergency or rebellion.

AMMAN: ISRAELI STAND REMAINS UNCHANGED

JN302159Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Despite more than 1 and 1/2 years of international efforts to find a solution for the Middle East crisis that pleases all sides in the region and those big powers which have vital interests in this part of the world, Israel has not changed its stand since the government of Levi Eshkol. through the governments of Meir, Rabin, Peres and up to Menahem Begin's government.

If we consider the Israeli document or the three decisions adopted by Begin's cabinet last Sunday--decisions which define Israel's final positions on the dialog for peace--we discover that all of them completely disregard the cause of the Palestinian people, the soil of the people of Palestine and the question of occupied Arab Jerusalem. Moreover, they do not give any importance whatsoever to the cause on which the Arab-Zionist struggle is based. In its historic document that will be submitted to the Camp David conference, Begin's government refers to the participation of representatives from the West Bank in the negotiations.

Despite the fact that Israel's peace conditions and their consequences are completely rejected and cannot be accepted by the Arabs in any way whatsoever, the U.S. alternative reported by the U.S. press will be no better than the Israeli logic, no matter how many justifications we might find to make that logic acceptable to the Arab peoples throughout the large Arab homeland.

Hence, a search should be made for progress in solving the dispute and establishing peace based on the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, not on substituting an American occupation for the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. It is not a matter of preferring the advantages of a new occupation to the disadvantages of the old occupation. That poses no problem for anyone because it is not at all a topic for discussion. The main problem lies in Israel's compliance with Security Council Resolution 242 and implementation of all its articles. If Israel were to do this, there would be no objection to accepting forces from the entire world to provide the security guarantees Israel claims to need.

Israel should realize that peace will not be established on the debris of the Palestinian presence--people and soil--because its plans for expansion and settlement in the occupied Arab territories are a clear call for violence and for resorting to war and destruction, not a call for the sought-for peace. If the ecstasy of power makes the leaders of Israel blind to facts, the United States should try to convince Israel that vital U.S. interests and national security are not tied to the Zionist aggressive presence, which practices extortion on the United States itself from inside. Israel has hostile expansionist interests, both geographical and human, in the Middle East. The United States has to decide at Camp David to what extent it can cope with Israel's plans, unless it finds itself obliged to support these plans no matter how great the cost.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--Amman, 30 Aug--The following ambassadors were sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn yesterday evening: Hani Khalifah to Spain, Walid ad-Durrah to India, 'Aziz al-Kabariti to Qatar and Hasan Hamami to Syria. [Amman JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN]

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS UNIFIL-CHRISTIAN AGREEMENT

NC310650Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] A UN spokesman said at a late hour last night that an agreement has been reached permitting UN emergency forces to move along the border strip in southern Lebanon.

This report was announced following a meeting held yesterday in occupied Jerusalem between the UN emergency forces' chief coordinator, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo, and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the Israeli chief of staff. This agreement comes in the wake of the discussions which were held in Jerusalem last week between UN Under Secretary Brian Urquhart and senior Israeli officials.

VOL: SUDAN TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM DETERRENT FORCES

NC301455Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] In a statement made today [no further details on where or to whom statement made], Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri said that his country will not renew the mandate of its forces which are serving in Lebanon because Sudan is not happy with the deeds of the Arab Deterrent Forces. President Numayri believes that the situation will remain turbulent in Lebanon until the convocation of the Camp David meeting, after which matters should become clearer.

SHAM'UN COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD LEBANON

NC311245Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] Asked about his opinion regarding the deployment of UNIFIL units in the border villages, former President Camille Sham'un said: Agreement was reached between the Lebanese and UN forces to cooperate in the south. I welcome this agreement.

Asked whether it is true that the Sudanese Government has decided to withdraw its contingent in the Arab Deterrent Forces, he said: We have been informed of the decision of the Sudanese Government to withdraw its forces at the end of their term in October. On this occasion we must express our thanks and gratitude to the Sudanese forces which have behaved in an exemplary manner during their stay in Lebanon. We hope Saudi Arabia would make the same decision. A few days ago, I expressed our thanks and gratitude to the Saudi forces for their noble behavior in their dealings with the Lebanese.

Asked about U.S. policy which says that there are no aggressions committed by Syria and no Syrian aims to occupy Lebanon, former President Sham'un said: Some say that the United States is the strongest country in the world. I am not in a position to determine the balance of power between East and West. But I say that power alone means nothing unless it is based on wisdom, justice, truthfulness and correct understanding. Like many others I also ask: Does the United States enjoy these characteristics together with its miliary and material strengtn? I got the answer to this question from a book in English which I read a few years ago. The book takes pity on the American people for following their officials like sheep. They bring to memory the Chinese figurine depicting a person who has lost his sight, hearing and speech in order not to see, hear and tell the truth.

These officials have lost more than this: they have lost the ability to distinguish between good and evil, between right and wrong, and truth and lie. They exploit principles for their personal political purposes in the narrow domestic sphere. They raise hell because one person is on trial in the Soviet Union in the hope of winning cheap popularity with some of the voters and ignore the tragedies of an entire people, such as the Lebanese people, who are facing annihilation and destruction. This is because they are afraid that if they support the Lebanese people it would be detrimental to their interests.

Sham'un added: This policy is not only applied to the Christians in Lebanon but also to other minorities in other Middle Eastern countries.

CABINET MEETS; AL-HUSS MAKES STATEMENT

NC3013202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpts] President Ilyas Sarkis chaired the weekly cabinet meeting today in the presence of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and the other ministers. The meeting continued until 1140.

During the meeting, President Sarkis mentioned the security situation in the country, saying: As a result of security disruptions in some northern areas, painful and regrettable incidents have occurred there, the victims of which were Lebanese citizens who apparently did not have a hand in them. The principles of justice and order demand a close investigation of these incidents to determine those responsible for them and to prevent their occurrance by means of certain measures which will contain the situation and put events in their right place.

The Arab Deterrent Forces' Command has, in accordance with the instructions given to it, demanded the activation of the specialized investigatory body.

On the occasion of the festivities to be held to inaugurate His Holiness Pope John Paul I, His Excellency President Sarkis will go to the Vatican to participate in these ceremonies. He will be accompanied by an official delegation composed of the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, and various other ministers.

The cabinet has also decided to form the Lebanese delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings in New York under the chairmanship of the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Fu'ad Butrus.

After the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss made the following statement:

We were briefed by the minister for foreign, defense and expatriates affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, about the outcome of his visit to fraternal Syria and details of the discussions he held there with top-level officials. We also discussed general security in Lebanon, particularly the situation in the north. We devoted attention to reports from the north indicating that there have been innocent victims. The cabinet studied steps which might possibly be taken in order to determine those responsible for the incidents as well as the security measures which might be adopted in order to prevent the possible occurrance of such incidents in the future. Prime Minister al-Huss added that in its meeting today, the cabinet also adopted a number of routine decisions related to various administrative and ministerial affairs.

Asked finally whether he could give any clarification about Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus' visit to Latakia, following the overall assessment which was made concerning these talks, Prime Minister al-Huss replied: The results were announced by the foreign minister himself when he returned from his visit to Latakia.

PRESIDENT MEETS WITH DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER

NC301530Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 1140, President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting attended by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and defense affairs, Fu'ad Butrus, and the Arab Deterrent Forces commander, Col Sami al-Khatib.

At the end of the meeting, the Arab Deterrent Forces commander, Col Sami al-Khatib, said: The situation in the north is being dealt with seriously. We are working to attain anything that will provide security for the north. Everyone can rest assured that there are top-level officials exerting efforts to deal with this subject, which we will never neglect.

FRANJIYAH, KARAMI, JUNBLATT DISCUSS ALLIANCE

NC301448Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 30 August--A meeting was held in Ihdin today attended by former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the Progressive Socialist Party leader, Walid Junblatt. The discussion dealt with the coordination of stands among the three political leaders as a preliminary to establishing an alliance constituting a national Lebanese front to resist plans for partitioning Lebanon and to uphold Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and Arabism.

Hold Further Talks

JN301920Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 30 August--Talks were resumed in Ihdin this evening between Sulayman Franjiyah, former Lebanese president; Rashid Karami, former Lebanese prime minister; and Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]. The INA correspondent in the north reports that the first meeting was held at 1030 today but no statement was released on its content. The second meeting ended this evening.

Tawfiq Sultan, chairman of the PSP branch in northern Lebanon, said the conferees reviewed the current situation and its dangers. He added that they were in agreement on the events and principles which constitute the common ground of the Lebanese forces and factions. He then announced that a statement on the Ihdin talks will be issued tomorrow after a morning meeting. The statement, he added, will explain in detail the agreed stands and responsibilities.

PHALANGIST EMERGENCY COMMITTEE MEETS

NC311146Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1115 GMT 31 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The Phalangist Emergency Committee and the War Council held a meeting this morning and studied all aspects of the security situation in the wake of the bloody incidents in the north. The conferees discussed a security, political, and social plan dealing with the various possibilities which the Lebanese people may face.

ATH-THAWRAH SCORES PROPOSAL FOR U.S. TROOPS IN AREA

JN3108000Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the column "Opinion," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH comments on the Camp David meeting. Under the headline "The Hidden Aspects of the Camp David Meeting," the paper writes: The Camp David meeting may lead to an agreement between As-Sadat and Begin to introduce U.S. military presence in the area under a bilateral agreement declared between Cairo and Tel Aviv. Such a development is quite conceivable. It was publicly raised last March when Carter met Begin and after the Egyptian regime pledged to serve the interests of the United States and the imperialist circles in the area and in the African Continent. The role played by As-Sadat along these lines is an indication of what could happen. It also reveals the hidden aspects of the Camp David summit.

The Washington POST said yesterday that President Carter will propose the establishment of a U.S. airbase in Sinai and the sending of U.S. forces to the occupied West Bank. This is evidence that both Israel and Egypt are facilitating the U.S. aim of establishing a military presence in the area. This is what Washington has been seeking as a strategic objective.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: Replacing the Israeli military presence in Sinai with a U.S. military presence will certainly be short of achieving Egyptian sovereignty over Egyptian soil and does not serve the interests of peace in the area. The outcome will be completely to the contrary because replacing foreign military forces with other foreign military forces does not change the nature of the occupation and aggression. Yet the question here is academic, while the essence of the Arab-Israeli dispute remains as it is and the opportunities available for peace remain remote. And thus all the reports about the positive results of the Camp David summit are refuted, despite the efforts made by the Western and Egyptian information media to predict so-called positive results.

SYRIA, LEBANON WILL FIGHT IF ISRAEL INTERFERES

JN3021322Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Aug 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Zionist enemy is trying at this stage to show that he is able to use his military might against Lebanon and Syria as a parallel and complementary danger to his strangulating political control over the Egyptian regime. Begin wants to go to Camp David in this posture. He wants to show that he is able to play with fire and deal with military blows because he has achieved an unlimited and unexpected political control of As-Sadat.

Naturally, the Zionist military threat is a calculated result of the Israeli policy and its unfaltering penchant for aggression and expansion. It is also natural that the feverish and conceited Zionist military push is a natural result of the U.S. imperialist support for Israel. Thus any interpretation of the Israeli political or military behavior must be based on three factors:

First: Israel desires to expand by aggression so as to fulfill the requirements of its political and social structure.

Second: Israel wants to tighten the imperialist domination of the area.

Third: Israel wants to exploit the complicated and confused conditions and the state of Arab weakness to the maximum in order to serve the Zionist-colonialist interests in a major spreading and deepening of their influence in the Arab homeland.

The basic reason behind Israel's behavior in raising the threat to interfere militarily against Syria and Lebanon stems from Zionist panic at the continuation of Arab steadfastness and the possibilities inherent in this steadfastness under the leadership of Arab Syria.

Whatever the magnitude of the Zionist threat and the easy circumstances for aggression, Lebanon is no longer a divided and weak homeland despite the manifestations of division and fighting. The threat to either of the two countries--Syria or Lebanon--is a threat to both of them. Arab Syria has stated through the mouth of its leader Hafiz al-Asad that it believes in the Arabism of Lebanon just as Lebanon believes in the Arabism of Syria. In this connection leader Al-Asad said that the Israeli military threat to Lebanon is natural as long as the Lebanese people with their land aspire to a unified national entity. Lebanese people and land are part of the Arab land and nation.

By resorting to direct military threat after having despaired of its military aid to the Phalangists and Sham'unist, Israel wants to go to Camp David in the posture of a superior aggressor. Thus As-Sadat's role will be to look for his alleged weapons in the labyrinths of Israel's aggressive military tendency. He will find nothing else to do but to continue his downfall and become involved in the game of humiliation and capitulation.

Arab Lebanon is Arab Syria. Lebanon is steadfast as long as Syria is steadfast. Lebanon will triumph over the sedition and lackeys. When Israel takes military action against Lebanon, Israel will be confronted with a firm stand by Arab Syria. Then Israel will choose to launch aggression and the two fraternal countries--Lebanon and Syria--will choose to fight in defense of the land and homeland until they liberate the land and the homeland and are victorious.

KHADDAM, SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER EXCHANGE SPEECHES

For a Moscow Radio report on speeches by Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister Khaddam and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko at a 30 August luncheon in Moscow, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 31 August Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

ALGERIA

EL MOUDJAHID CRITICIZES MOROCCAN KING'S SPEECH

LD301057Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Aug 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Mask Has Slipped"]

[Text] In a solemn speech made on Sunday evening to mark the 25th anniversary of the late Mohamed V's deportation, King Hassan II stated that he will not allow "any borders apart from Mauritanian borders to be established south of Morocco" and that he "will never agree to a regime which differs ideologically from Morocco and Mauritania to be formed on his kingdom's southern borders."

So, his mask has finally slipped. The true face of the Moroccan monarchy's expansionist policy, repeatedly condemned by Algeria, has now been officially revealed. Indeed, until now, many observers had been deceived by the Rabat monarch's hypocritical tactics, portraying his main "opposition" party, Istiqlal (now in government), as "hawks," demanding parts of Algerian and Malian territory and portraying himself as the dove of peace.

Apart from the surprising and clearly aggressive tone of these statements, the policy of preventing a neighboring country from choosing its own destiny and rejecting the existence of a state ideologically different from his own is likely to aggravate the present conflict.

In the context of the region, an attempt to determine the political leanings of a neighboring country is obviously unrealistic and offensively anachronistic. It is a positively medieval attitude.

Morocco is now the only country apart from Israel and South Africa which is still trying to impose its diktat by violence and savage colonization.

The domestic policy which the king chooses to follow within his own recognized borders concerns himself and the Moroccan people. But we cannot accept his right to try and change the region's geopolitical map to suit his whims, calculations and ambitions.

Indeed, the sovereign ought to be reminded that revolutionary Algeria has tolerated on its borders a monarchy with which it has tried to maintain a policy of cooperation and neighborly relations within the Maghreb framework. "However, we must build the Maghreb at popular level, not just state level. Maghreb unity based on the liberation of the exploited masses for the benefit of the people would, on a practical level, bring about sweeping transformations in the structures of the countries forming the Maghreb."

This fundamentally belligerent line of thinking rules out any chance of a definitive and just solution of the conflict and would amount to leading the world toward serious confrontations which would wipe out all the efforts which have been made to achieve peace and security for the peoples of the world.

The recent events in Mauritania and President Mustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck's declared intention to restore sovereignty and dignity to his country do not seem to have been echoed by King Hassan II who is still playing the part of the overlord warning his vassal against possible deviations. This attitude shows that the Moroccan sovereign regards Mauritania as a strategic objective in his expansionist policy and that Mauritania's independence, won with the support of many friendly countries, is only temporary.

Thus, the mask has slipped, clearly showing Hassan II's intention to establish a protectorate over Mauritania and then annex it.

Moreover, Hassan II's rejection of a Saharan state will make no impact on the course of history and will have no influence on the outcome of the Saharan people's struggle which has already won considerable sympathy in the international community. Perhaps we should remind the king that the days are over in which sovereigns could do whatever they pleased with peoples and countries. The Saharan people and their revolution do exist on Morocco's borders and the king must come to terms with them one day.

Thus, the mask has slipped once again and Hassan II's anxiety was evident in his speech. He is afraid of the Saharan people and the POLISARIO, their vanguard organization, which will one day put an end to his dreams of an anachronistic kingdom stretching from the Atlantic to the Senegal River, and he also fears the Moroccan popular forces which will one day overthrow a perverted regime which has cost the fraternal Moroccan people so much blood and so many tears.

The wisest and fairest attitude would be to admit, as President Boumediene so aptly said, that the West Saharan problem is "a real problem of sovereignty which must be settled by political means."

MEASURES ADOPTED TO END PLUNDER ON FARMS

LD301248Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The state of agriculture in general, and particularly within the self-managed sector, was the main topic of a meeting held yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Revolution. A number of officials of the ministry participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, a number of developments relating to the state of agriculture on the self-managed farms were discussed. They are negative developments--particularly negligence, lack of responsibility with regard to increasing production and actual plundering of the products of the various farms, whether by the workers themselves or relatives or some officials who are permitted to enter the farms whenever they wish in order to take what they want. Another development is the collusion between some farmworkers and some greedy merchants who (?market) huge quantities of products.

In discussing the factors that led to such developments, which are serious as far as this vital sector of our national economy is concerned, it was noted that they are mainly due to insufficient awareness among the workers, the lack of personnel entrusted with guard duties, strict [word indistinct] by the security organs and the leniency of the judiciary toward criminals.

In order to put an end to acts of plunder, it was decided at the meeting to take a number of measures, including the appointment of official armed guards on the farms and the enforcement of strict orders to the security organs to apprehend any person, irrespective of his position, found on a self-managed farm with such an aim and to refer him immediately to justice.

LIBYA

FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO ATTEND REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

CSSR's Laco, YAR's Al-Hamadani Arrive

LD310228Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Karol Laco, Czechoslovak deputy premier, has arrived in Tripoli at the head of an official delegation to attend celebrations of the ninth anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

Ahmad al-Hamadani, YAR minister of economy, has also arrived at the head of a delegation.

Bulgarian Deputy Premier

LD301921Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpt] Bulgarian Deputy Premier Grigor Stoichkov arrived in Tripoli at noon today heading his country's delegation to the celebrations marking the ninth anniversary of the 1 September Revolution.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI QUOTED ON AS-SADAT COOPERATION WITH U.S.

NC301410Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1343 GMT 30 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 30 August--Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has affirmed that the aid the United States has been giving to Israel is several times that given by the Arab states to Egypt.

In an interview published today in the Lebanese magazine AS-SAYYAD, President Numayri noted the reasons which led President Anwar as-Sadat to cooperate with the United States to solve the Middle East crisis. He said that President as-Sadat found that the United States is the only one qualified to pressure Israel for a just settlement, particularly since Israel's economy and its military power are completely dependent on U.S. aid.

President Numayri said that the reasons also include the Soviet Union's hostile attitude towards Egypt and President as-Sadat in particular and that this attitude was obvious during the October 1973 war.

SUNA REPORTS U.S. SIGNS AID AGREEMENTS WITH SUDAN

JN310915Y Khartoum SUNA in English 0820 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 31 August--Two agreements were signed here yesterday with the U.S. Government according to which the latter would present grants to bolster elementary medical care in western Sudan and agriculture in the southern region.

Part of the first grant would be utilised this year in establishing 35 medical care units in western Sudan and purchasing 50 trucks for transporting medical supplies. The second grant would be used to enhance the agricultural training institutes in the southern Sudan.

The two $11 million agreements come in the frame-work of the U.S. aid programme to Sudan amounting to $48 million.

NUMAYRI EXPECTED TO VISIT SPAIN IN OCTOBER

LD301900Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Rashid at-Tahir, vice president and foreign minister, has discussed with Spain's ambassador in Khartoum President Numayri's anticipated visit to Spain, which is expected to take place in October.

The ambassador said his government looked forward to the visit and hoped it would yield tangible and good results in the interest of both sides.

The Western Sahara issue was also discussed. The ambassador stressed his country's desire to help President Numayri in his efforts to solve this problem in his capacity as OAU chairman.

U.S. COMPANY TO PROSPECT FOR URANIUM

JN311023Y Khartoum SUNA in English 0835 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 31 August--The American company, MINX, obtained a provisional concession for prospecting radioactive materials [in the] southern part of northern Kordofan Province.

"Field work on the 12,000 sq km concession will begin early October and continue for 3 months," said the director of the Geological Department.

Talks with the MINX company would begin later to reach an agreement on the issue.

GOVERNMENT WARNS FOOD HOARDERS, SPECULATORS

LD302134Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD/EA

[Text] The attorney general, Mahdi al-Fahl, has told SUNA that the state's security and commodity control laws will be fully applied and amended if need be so as to deter the avaricious and those trifling with the people's food supplies. The attorney general went on to say that the two laws contained numerous provisions designed to deter those intending to trifle with the people's food supplies, stressing that serious attention would be given to the initial steps which would facilitate (?reporting) such culprits. The deterrent law would be awaiting them.

'Abd al-Wahhab Ibrahim, the interior minister, and Mahdi al-Fahl, the attorney general, will hold an expanded meeting tomorrow to be attended by the prosecutor general, the under secretary in the Office of the Attorney General, the commissioner of the police and the director of criminal investigations in Khartoum Province. The meeting will discuss measures to contain the acts of sabotage being committed by greedy merchants and commodity brokers in the consumer goods market.

A responsible source has declared that the meeting will discuss effective measures to halt hoarding, smuggling and interfering with prices, weights and measures. The meeting will also discuss methods of informing those who are trifling with consumer goods in large quantities that they are violating the state security law by being saboteurs of the national economy and that they will be liable to other measures, such as withdrawal of licenses, confiscation of goods and the places where they are hoarded, closure of trading premises and the publication of the names of the violators in the press and on radio.

It is worth noting that these measures come in pursuance of the resolute directives issued by the president of the republic when he addressed the Council of Ministers last Sunday.

SSU DELEGATION RETURNS FROM PRC

JN311027Y Khartoum SUNA in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 31 August--The Sudan Socialist Union (SSU) Central Committee delegation headed by 'Ali Shuma, state minister for youth and sports, arrived here Tuesday concluding an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

The delegation had conducted comprehensive talks with the officials of the Chinese Communist Party and toured several Chinese regions.

The delegation extended an invitation to a similar delegation from the Chinese Communist Party to visit the Sudan.

TUNISIA

AUTHORITIES SCORED FOR ALLEGED TORTURE OF TU DETAINEES

LD301449Y Paris LE MONDE in French 27-28 Aug 78 p 4 LD

[Interim report: "Tunisian Human Rights League Denounces Prison Conditions"]

[Text] Tunis--The Tunisian Human Rights League published a communique in Tunis Friday, 25 August in which it denounced "the bad prison conditions" and "the increasing use of torture in this country." It expresses its "consternation" over the facts which came to light during the recent trial in Sousse in which sentence was passed on 101 trade unionists arrested after the 26 January events. The communique describes the state of sick prisoners deprived of medical care and quotes in particular the case of Hocine Kouki who died from lack of medical attention while in prison. The league calls on the government and the National Assembly to quickly draw up a law "limiting the period of detention without trial and protecting human rights by introducing controls on interrogation methods and conditions of preventive detention."

Furthermore, DEMOCRATIE, a weekly paper published by the Social Democratic Movement, an opposition party led by Mr Mestiri, has just announced that the National Council for the Defense of Civil Liberties, chaired by former Minister Hassib Ben Ammar, has demanded a commission of inquiry.

During the Sousse trial official spokesmen categorically denied the accusations of torture made by the trade unionists and their lawyers. The spokesmen said that the security services carrying out the preliminary inquiry treated the detainees "normally to say the least." Moreover," they added, "all the defense's allegations are aimed at sullying the government's reputation."

WEIZMAN MEDIATES CHRISTIAN-UNIFIL AGREEMENT IN LEBANON

TA301553Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Military correspondent Yosi 'Abadi has just entered the IDF Evening Newsreel studio. He has details of an agreement achieved in southern Lebanon, an agreement which represents a change in the situation there. Well, an agreement between the Christians in southern Lebanon and the UN forces there, an agreement which permits the UNIFIL forces to move into the Christian enclaves and to establish observation posts was achieved today with the mediation of the Cabinet of Israel. The agreement was achieved at a meeting today between Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, General Ensio Siilasvuo. Yosi, over to you:

The main dispute between the Christians in southern Lebanon and UNIFIL ever since the IDF left the area more than 2 months ago was solved today. The Christians had opposed the entry of UNIFIL troops into the enclaves, which had been transferred to their control with the IDF evacuation; they erected barriers on the roads and only allowed the United Nations to pass through, not to take control.

The UN secretary general's aide, Brian Urquhart, who visited Israel last week, asked the defense minister to use his influence on the Christians to persuade them to permit the United Nations to enter the enclaves. With the mediation of the Cabinet of Israel, called "good offices" by the UN spokesman, an agreement was achieved. Today it was discussed by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and the commander of the UN forces in the Middle East, Gen Ensio Siilasvuo. According to the agreement, UNIFIL observation posts will be established in the two main hamlets in the Christian enclaves, Marj 'Uyun in the eastern enclave and Bint Jubayl in the central enclave, and two other UN military positions will be established in Ash-Shiyah. UNIFIL units will take up observation positions along the Israel-Lebanon border; the UN forces have also been promised freedom of movement in the area of the enclaves and it was promised that the roadblocks put up in the past will be removed.

The solution of this problem represents an appreciable improvement in the relations between UNIFIL and the Christians in southern Lebanon. The restrictions set by the Christians created tension between the sides, now this tension may be reduced. The UN claim that these restrictions disturbed them in carrying out their duties will soon be tested. At any rate, the agreement represents a breakthrough toward an improvement in the relations between the two sides.

Haddad on Agreement

TA302016Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] Major Sa'd Haddad denied to correspondent 'Amiram Nir today that he had agreed to grant total free movement [to UNIFIL.] He said that the UNIFIL vehicles will be able to move within the enclaves only under the existing restrictions. Major Haddad expressed the hope that the new agreement will bring about calm in the region.

WEIZMAN PRESENCE AT CAMP DAVID IN DOUBT

TA310743Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 78 p 1 TA

[By 'Uzzi Benziman]

[Excerpt] The possibility has been raised in government circles that in view of the worsening situation in Lebanon Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman will not accompany the Israeli delegation to Camp David.

The situation in Lebanon is worsening and the assessment prevailing in Jerusalem is that Syria may take advantage of the summit in order to increase its military operations against the Christian population in Beirut and northern Lebanon. For this reason government circles have suggested that the defense minister remain in Israel. However, it seems that the prime minister is insisting that Weizman go with the delegation.

Nevertheless, if additional developments take place in Lebanon, the prime minister may also become convinced that the defense minister should stay in Israel. Weizman has been the central figure in contacts with foreign elements on the matter of Lebanon.

ZIPPORI CRITICAL OF TOUGHER LINE ON LEBANON

TA301210Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Aug 78 p 5 TA

[By David Eppel]

[Text] "The Government of Israel has an absolute commitment to the security of the residents in the north of the country. We have a commitment toward the Christian enclaves in southern Lebanon. I do not think that we have to go to war because of them," Deputy Defense Minister MK Mordekhay Zippori said last night at a rally of Likud functionaries in Ashqelon in preparation for the municipal elections.

Zippori said that the Christians in the north have stood fast for 3 years without the help of the great Christian world or of the Vatican, but only thanks to our help; however, if Israel is seeking trouble, it can think of a war for the sake of the Christians in the north. A responsible government will dispatch its soldiers to war only if there is danger to the state or its citizens.

Zippori levelled criticism at members of the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee, Yig'al Allon among them, who visited the prime minister this week to demand a tougher line.

COMMENT ON POSSIBILITY OF INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

TA301247Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Aug 78 p 1 (supplement) TA

[Eytan Haber commentary]

[Text] If no unexpected development takes place, one can assume that Israel will not intervene in what is going on today in the heart of Lebanon. IDF troops will not go into action against units of the Syrian Army presently acting in Lebanon as if they owned the place. It seems that Jerusalem will be satisfied with mere verbal warnings. At the same time the government will follow closely, with keen interest but also with concern, developments across the border.

Today the Syrians are the real rulers and "landlords" in Lebanon. To a certain extent, Lebanon can today be regarded as yet another confrontation state. It is possible that an error was committed, about 2 years ago, when it was decided not to prevent the Syrian invasion into Lebanon by force of arms. Today, however, the situation being what it is, it would be merely an academic exercise to discuss the question of whether at the time it would have been necessary to do that. What has been done cannot be undone.

It may be said to the credit of the Syrians that they plan their actions in Lebanon with wisdom and a great deal of caution in order not to frighten the indifferent world out of its slumber. In the present stage of the fighting, the Syrians acted at first with great force against concentrations of Christians in Beirut in order to topple the military strength and morale of the Christians. They stopped doing that at the moment they thought that the world, especially the Christian world, could no longer ignore it. The sole practical reaction was in Washington. The U.S. Congress squashed financial aid to Syria to the tune of $90 million.

The massive operation of the Syrians in Beirut led to results desirable to the Damascus rulers. The Christians were severely beaten, a massive flight of Christian inhabitants started from the city and from the country, and the morale of the residents and uniformed personnel sank rapidly.

Loyal to the sad rule of "kill a Christian and relax," the Syrians turned to the next stage of crushing physically and spiritually the large Christian population in Lebanon. At this stage they began to act against Christian residents and soldiers in the villages in northern Lebanon. From the military point of view, this is an operation that does not involve great risks. From the political point of view, the leaders of the West are not alarmed because of "a number of villages," let alone because of "a number of families." It is a fact: The present Syrian activity in northern Lebanon does not get broad coverage in the world's communications media. It is regarded by many people as "a limited operation" which is "tolerable." To be added to this is the cooperation between the Syrians and not inconsiderable parts of the Christian population, among others, members of the Franjiyah family.

From Israel's point of view, there is--but does not have to be--a difference between the murder of Christian families in the quarter of Al-Ashrafiyah in Beirut and their slaughter in their houses in the village of Dahr al-Ahmad. If Israel wanted to act with force of arms and to rush to the aid of the Christians in Lebanon, IDF troops would have been roaming the streets of Beirut several weeks ago. This is not the case, because at the time Israel decided to draw a "red line" between itself and the Syrian forces and chose to ignore the distress of the Christians as far as active military assistance is concerned.

Foreign sources reported at the time that Israel had sent weapons and equipment to the tune of hundreds of millions of pounds to the Christians in northern and southern Lebanon, and that recently many consignments of arms had been shipped from Israel to the port of Juniyah, the supply-port of the Christians. Among the leadership of the Christians there were those who wanted to drag Israel into the cauldron of war. Others, on the whole the "older" ones, were more optimistic as regards the capacity of the Christians to hold out.

Israel's pure security interest does not require, at this stage, military action. It is too late to act, because of the presence of the Syrians in Lebanon. It is too early to act out of apprehension that Israel's security is endangered. The Syrian military threat is not immediate and not direct.

However, there are those in Israel who think that the medicine ought to be prepared before the blow, and that the backbone of the Syrian Army ought to be broken for several years by means of a preemptive war from the Golan Heights. Today the Syrians are in Lebanon with diminishing strength, and this is, no doubt, an unusual opportunity to blast the military forces of Al-Asad to bits.

Israel is not, however, acting in a vacuum. Under the present political pressures, and in the awareness that the IDF would have to act in other battlefields of primary importance, Jerusalem is making every effort not to pull the trigger.

U.S. 'SILENT ENCOURAGEMENT' OF SYRIAN ACTION IN LEBANON

TA3012444Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 78 pp 1, 15 TA

[Yosef Harif commentary]

[Text] Israel continues to view the developments in Lebanon as "grave and serious," and is following them with great vigilance, while examining the contingent moves of Syria, which--in the absence of public reaction, notably from the United States--permitted its forces to act aggressively against the Christians, to the point of indiscriminate slaughter.

Recently, Israel again approached the United States, seeking to demonstrate the gravity of the situation, but it transpired that there is a difference in assessment between Jerusalem and Washington--and it is feared now in Jerusalem that the Syrians might interpret the U.S. behavior as a "silent encouragement" to continue their activities.

Syria assumes that if its forces gain control over various footholds in Lebanon down to the Litani River (without infringing on the area controlled by UNIFIL), Israel need not interpret this as endangering its security and would have to abstain from a military option.

Observers believe that the government in Damascus decided to exploit the sensitivity on the eve of the Camp David summit to "decide issues" and establish facts in the field, under the assumption that the United States would be unable to do anything without jeopardizing the summit.

There are more and more signs indicating that for reasons of global strategy the Americans actually intend to reconcile themselves to Syria's aims in Lebanon--and this causes Israel particular concern.

Even though U.S. spokesmen report about appeals made by Washington to all elements involved in Lebanon "to behave with restraint," in reality no signs can be seen that such a representation was made to Syria (if it was made), or that it had any impact on the authorities in Damascus.

OFFICIALS MAKE COMMENTS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

Dayan on Lebanon, Camp David

TA3021107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The Cabinet of Israel hopes to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon through political means and to preserve the status quo. This was said this evening by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to a Jerusalem rally of United Jewish Appeal activists from Canada and the United States. He said that even in these days, on the eve of the Camp David conference, we cannot ignore the events in the area. The Syrians are taking control of Lebanon with a view toward bringing about the idea of a greater Syria and we must remember that all of this is occuring close to us, within the range of weapons.

About Camp David the foreign minister said that our position has never been better for holding negotiations that it is now and the United States has never been so active in attempts to settle the dispute in the Middle East. We will go to the negotiations, Mr Dayan commented, without conditions.

Begin on Camp David

TA3020137 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Text] A short while ago the prime minister ended a political speech at the Herut movement center in Tel Aviv. The prime minister spoke during a political discussion held by the Herut center. Here is an excerpt of his remarks: [begin videotape]

[Begin] You should know that we are not going to Camp David with the thought that the summit will fail. If there is a failure, those who will cause it on the other side should worry about this, not us. We are going to this important tripartite conference with the consciousness that our people and the Egyptian people, to whom we extend best wishes, need peace. They need peace just as much as we do. The truth is that there is no reason for us to live with repeated conflict or to bring the two peoples to any degree of bloodshed. It is possible to solve the problems dividing us and to gain peace for both peoples and the entire Middle East, to gain peace for both us and our neighbors. It will be with this consciousness that we will leave for the camp carrying the name of the young Eisenhower. [end videotape]

Arens, Begin at Herut Center

TA3107177 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 31 Aug 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] A political discussion in anticipation of the Camp David summit took place last night at the Herut center. At the end of the discussion, the center extended blessings for the journey to the prime minister, who attended the discussion, and the rest of the delegation. The center rejected by a vote of 14 to 8 an attempt to adopt a resolution that would have meant a withdrawal from the peace plan. Here is a report from correspondent Sara Frankel: [begin recording]

It was one of the calmer meetings of the Herut Party center, a meeting without interruptions, even though two speakers took exception to the cabinet peace plan and demanded its shelving. Only eight persons voted for the proposal.

A great majority in the center--or rather the center in its entirety--supports the establishment of settlements in every part of Eretz Yisra'el, and several speakers even demanded that the present suspension be removed. However, the center has faith in the prime minister and the cabinet, and is ready to give the negotiations a chance.

MK Moshe Arens, Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, said that a stable settlement can be based on Israel's deterrent capability: in Sinai, control over the airfields and areas in their vicinity and a continued control over the base in Sharm ash-Shaykh; in Judaea and Samaria, full control by the IDF. Arens thinks that As-Sadat's sincerity will be tested by his recognition of the importance of the Israeli deterrent power as a guarantee for a stable settlement.

A number of speakers referred to events in Lebanon and demanded action from the cabinet. Arens said the Syrians have to be deterred from seizing control over Lebanon. He said that the statement by a senior Defense Ministry source that Israel would not intervene in Lebanon was a mistake.

[Arens] When going to Camp David, one must not forget our strategic interests in Lebanon. One must not forget the sorry state of the Christian populace. Thus, it is my assessment, by way of putting things to a test, among the first topics on the agenda, we have to put on the table the very issues that constitute a test to the sincerity of As-Sadat's wishes.

[Frankel] The prime minister, who concluded the discussion, first commented on the statements made about Lebanon.

[Begin] Had it not been for the Jewish state, under the former cabinet as well but even more so during the term of the present cabinet, the Christians in Lebanon would have been annihilated. The Christians in Lebanon know this. It was for this reason that they demonstrated at the good fence yesterday or last night, but out of gratitude. This gratitude for what we have done for them comes not just from southerners but also from those of the north.

[Frankel] As for the Camp David summit, the prime minister promises that we shall maintain the vital interests of the State of Israel; we are not going to Camp David thinking there will be a failure.

[Begin] We are going to the tripartite conference at Camp David with maximum good will to reach an agreement, an agreement that will facilitate continuing and maintaining commendable negotiations for the sake of what has been our declared goal for more than 11 years, to accomplish the signing of peace treaties. [end recording]

Begin on Autonomy Plan

TA301951Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpts] The prime minister said today that the success of the autonomy plan depends on massive settlement in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister said this in a meeting he had today with the 'En Vered Circle representatives and the members of the organized settlement movement. At the end of the meeting several of the participants said that they heard very encouraging things from the prime minister about the future of the territories and settlement there. However, they refused to give details about the contents of the talk. Our correspondent for settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren, reports. [begin videotape]

It was quite clear that the prime minister and his assistants drew satisfaction from the meeting with the settlement movement members who were educated in the spirit of the Labor Party. However, despite the encouraging remarks they heard from the prime minister, a wide gap remains between him and them regarding the pace of establishing the settlements. They said that the act of freezing settlements carries the meaning of conceding territories. The prime minister emphasized again that he supports massive settlement but that there are budgetary problems in addition to the political constraints. The 'En Vered Circle representatives asked the prime minister to give the issue of settlement the highest priority. [end videotape]

Arens on Lebanon

TA302023Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Moshe Arens, demands that Israel place the issue of Lebanon on the agenda of the Camp David summit. According to him, Syria's takeover of Lebanon constitutes an extreme change in Israel's security situation. In his opinion, Syria should be deterred from carrying out its scheme in spite of the fact that no deterrance can be without risk.

MINISTER HAMMER DISCUSSES SETTLEMENTS, CAMP DAVID

TA302131Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Interview with Education Minister Zevulun Hammer on Moqed weekly program by Ya'ir Alloni, Nahman Shay and Elimelekh Ram)--videotaped in studio]

[Excerpt] [Ram] Our time is running out, and a question I would like to ask you Minister Hammer: As a man who supported the settlement in Qaddum in the previous government--where do you place yourself today, in the present confrontation between the government and Gush Emunim?

[Hammer] The struggle in the previous government was over the principle according to which the government thought that Samaria and, to a certain extent, Judaea, should be closed to Jews, de facto at least. The government thought that it should be closed as a section that will be set aside for the Arabs in one agreement or another. We protested and struggled against this principle which was not actually declared but which was fully adhered to, and the proof of this is that no settlement was established voluntarily in Judaea and Samaria. In other words, I was one of those who believed that it must not be decreed that Jews must not settle in Judaea or Samaria. This government declares, in principle, that Judaea and Samaria will be in Jewish hands, that Jews will settle there. There are questions of race, timing, location and others. At the time I thought that the government should determine pace, timing and location. What I thought was that a government cannot declare that Jews cannot settle in Eretz Yisra'el.

[Alloni] Allow me to ask you at this point and in this context--one of the Gush Emunim heads has recently said that it was the Alinement members who did a good job as far as establishing settlements is concerned. We have heard enough reactions of Gush Emunim members regarding the settlement capability of the present government.

[Hammer] Possibly. Gush Emunim is pervaded with the idealistic ardor which I know and appreciate. My best friends are in this Gush.

I surely also know that they are doing this in Judaea and Samaria under most difficult conditions. I understand their desire and sensitivity on this issue. I understand their desire to have more settlements established, more quickly and better. I also agree that it is not good that the government is establishing--incidentally, it is exactly because the government has established many settlements in Samaria, it has established numerous settlements in Samaria in its year in office....

[Ram] Which government?

[Hammer] This government of course, thirteen settlements or....

[Ram] How many settlements were established by the previous government by the way?

[Hammer] In Samaria? None.

[Ram] In Judaea?

[Hammer] None.

[Allon] How many settlements in the Jordan Valley, the Rafah approaches and elsewhere?

[Hammer] Yes. The previous government drew up a plan covering the 10-year period since the 6-Day War. The present government--in this year of informational difficulties and political constraints unparalleled during the term of office of the previous government, in this year filled with the sense of impending peace which demands care and avoiding of anything that may harm the chances to have it....

[Allon] Has it established settlements or was it merely swept up by the ideological ardor of Gush Emunim which did the establishing with the government only passively accepting this?

[Hammer] I would say the following: Let us begin with the fact that this government clearly and openly says that it wants to establish settlements there, that it will allot funds and thought and planning to this. After this we should mention the questions of pace, timing and location regarding which there were occasional negotiations. I think that this government can certainly increase the pace, that it may allocate more funds for this. By the way, I think that more funds may be allocated to education, to social welfare.

[Allon] And still cut the budget by 3 billion Israeli pounds?

[Hammer] Yes, in addition to a 3-billion cut. However, I certainly would like to see the government establish settlements more quickly. I am doing my best in this respect. However, there are constraints which did exist in the past, but there are also activities in Judaea and Samaria that were not carried on in the past either.

[Ram] You spoke of constraints and I understand that the constraints are a result of the political negotiations which have been conducted since November. The Israeli peace plan, both parts of this plan introduced by the prime minister in Ismailia--I would not say that it gained sympathetic repercussions in the Arab world. Is it possible, in your opinion, to soften this Israeli plan? Should we soften it?

[Hammer] I believe that the Israeli Government, both in the peace plan and in many recent reformulations of it, has taken huge steps in the direction of peace. We should surely constantly make efforts:

Peace is a major and most important issue. There are dangers though. There are things we must not be pushed into. Enmity that has existed for decades cannot be ended in an instant. Alternatives should be examined and not under pressure or threats or fear. Efforts should be made....

[Shay] Mr Hammer, the MAFDAL has lately been seen to be a less hawkish and more moderate party than what it was on the eve of elections. You can reject this assumption, but, will you, for example, act in favor of a compromise and flexibility, perhaps also in favor of a territorial compromise if this possibility is raised at Camp David?

[Hammer] Look, I do not know what will be raised in Camp David. I know that this government, including ourselves, will make great efforts to achieve the peace we all want and need. However, we cannot enter danger after what we have already experienced in our past--the holocaust and other things. We want to have sufficient security. I think that going to Camp David will be adhering to this direction.

[Ram] I would still like to press you on the same question asked by Nahman Shay. Will your party be prepared to go for a territorial compromise and the application of Resolution 242 on all three fronts?

[Hammer] Look, we now find ourselves in a very grave situation: The Egyptians tell us to withdraw to the 1967 lines; we are more or less told to remove the existing settlements; we are not told not to establish settlements but to remove the existing ones. We still find ourselves in a very early stage of the Affair. We will enter negotiations without nervousness and with great desire to bring about peace....

[Ram] Desire that is expressed in deeds?

[Hammer] This is clear. What can great desire mean....

[Ram] What deeds? Maybe you could hint to us....

[Hammer] The prime minister will speak to the nation on Saturday evening and will give more details....

[Interviewers interrupt, saying that Begin will speak on nonpolitical issues]

[Hammer] No, no, this is also important--he will speak about social issues. But the political issue will surely be the center of his speech. I will not go into details on this matter. However, in principle, I would say that this government, in its formulations, shows its readiness to examine things that will not endanger us, that will not meddle with our defenses and that will preserve the character of the Jewish people in Eretz Yisra'el as we understand it.

[Shay] In other words, both to intruduce changes in the peace plan and to say we proposed what we proposed in the past. There is (?a new idea) now, so let us go.

[Hammer] The government is going to Camp David both with its positions and with open-mindedness toward what the other side will say. The government will hear and answer.

[Alloni] Let us assume that the other party does not accept the two parts of this plan; what is the alternative in your opinion? Is there an alternative?

[Hammer] There are many alternatives. There is the problem of principles. There is a possibility of examining what the prime minister proposed: the permanent partial peace....

[Ram] This has already been rejected by President as-Sadat.

[Hammer] Look, everything may be rejected then. Incidentally, what does this mean--why do you not ask this--how can Israel go to Camp David when on the eve of the summit it is told that if the United States does not force it to change its positions and if it does not submit plans, the world is faced with a great danger? This was what was said in the news we heard from Egypt this evening. Is this the way to approach serious, true and honest negotiations aimed at peace? In my opinion, the MAFDAL will make and has made its contribution, the entire government will make its contribution. The Israeli Government will make it clear to every Israeli citizen that we have done everything possible to bring about peace.

COMPROMISE FAVORED BY 65 PERCENT OF PUBLIC

TA310649Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 30 Aug 78 p 4 TA

[Summary] In a public opinion telephone poll conducted by Dahaf yesterday, people were asked what stand they would take if a peace agreement based on territorial compromise in Judaea and Samaria were obtained at Camp David.

Of those polled, 65.5 percent were in favor of such an agreement, 25.8 percent were opposed and 8.6 percent did not know.

To the question "are you satisfied with Menahem Begin as prime minister," 62 percent said they were, 28.4 percent were not and 9.6 percent could not make up their minds.

With regard to Defense Minister Weizman, 73 percent were satisfied, 20.2 percent were not and 6.8 percent could not make up their minds. On Moshe Dayan as foreign minister, the poll went: 50.6 percent positive, 37.4 percent negative and 12 percent no opinion. For Simha Ehrlich the figures were: 33.2 percent positive, 51.6 percent negative and 15.2 percent no opinion.

The questions were addressed to 500 men and women in Tel Aviv, the Dan bloc, Jerusalem, Haifa and Beersheva.

The interviewers note that there has been a great rise in Prime Minister Begin's popularity (62 percent satisfied as opposed to 50.4 percent in a survey in late July).

There has been a small rise in Ehrlich's popularity: 33.2 percent positive against 30.4 percent in late July. Ministers Weizman and Dayan have maintained a stable popularity.

Although a telephone survey is not representative of all social strata, it is a faithful expression of the general distribution of public opinion.

JUDAEA, SAMARIA COMMANDER MEETS NABULUS MAYOR

TA301647Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The commander of the Judaea and Samaria region, Brig Gen Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, conferred with Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'a at his office today. Bassam ash-Shak'a has returned from a long visit to Amman. Ash-Shak'a conferred with senior officials and the Saudi ambassador in Jordan. Saudi Arabia promised to finance an independent electricity network for Nabulus. Bassam ash-Shak'a had always refused to visit Jordan, but when the municipalities decided to emphasize development plans, a reconciliation took place between Bassam ash-Shak'a and the Jordanian Government in the hope of obtaining a renewal of the Jordanian aid that existed before the elections to the municipalities in Judaea and Samaria.

SHAH, HUA KUO-FENG BEGIN OFFICIAL TALKS 30 AUG

LD301052Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Text] The first round of talks between the shah and His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng took place at Sa'dabad Palace this morning. His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng, the leader of the PRC, arrived at Sa'dabad Palace at 1030 and the shah welcomed his esteemed guest at the entrance. The shah and His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng talked privately for half an hour. Later the two countries' leaders continued their talks in a general session at 1120.

Today's talks were attended, for Iran, by the ministers of foreign affairs and commerce and some deputies from the two ministries, and for the PRC by the vice premier of the State Council as well as of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the first secretary of the Szechwan provincial committee, the foreign minister and some officials from the foreign and commerce ministries of that country, the shah's ambassador in Peking and the PRC ambassador to the imperial court.

Hua Visits Reza Shah Mausoleum

LD301053Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1026 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Prior to meeting with the shah today, the leader of the PRC went to the Reza Shah Great Mausoleum and offered a wreath to the founder of modern Iran. Upon his arrival at the mausoleum, His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng was welcomed by His Highness Prince 'Abdoreza Pahlavi.

Gifts Exchanged at Banquet

LD310850Y Tehran PARS in English 0722 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 30 Aug, PANA (PARS News Agency)--At the banquet held last night at Golestan Palace in the honour of Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, the two heads of state exchanged gifts. The shahanshah presented Hua with a Persian carpet and Hua gave the shahanshah a collection of Chinese handicrafts.

Hua Receives Sharif-Emami

LD310852Y Tehran PARS in English 0734 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tehran, 30 Aug, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Chairman Hua Kuo-feng of the People's Republic of China received Prime Minister Ja'far Sharif-Emami at Golestan Palace this afternoon and had one hour of talks. The new Iranian foreign minister, Amir Khosrow Afshar, and a number of members of Chairman Hua's delegation were also present during the talks. Later this afternoon, Chairman Hua received members of the diplomatic corps at the imperial court and discussed various issues during 30 minutes of talks.

Cultural Agreement Signed

LD311040Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Simultaneously with the official visit to our country by His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the PRC, Iran and China signed a cultural agreement in Tehran today. The agreement envisions cooperation between universities and educational institutions, and the exchange of specialists, research workers, information and cultural publications.

Reciprocal visits by artistic groups and athletic teams will be organized, scholarships will be granted to each other's citizens, specialized studies in universities and libraries by the two sides will take place and radio and television cooperation will begin. These are some of the measures in the Iranian-PRC cultural agreement.

Peking Reports

For Peking NCNA coverage of the visit to Iran by Hua Kuo-feng, see the Middle East section of the 30 August issue of the People's Republic of China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

PRESS COMMENTS ON HUA KUO-FENG VISIT

LD310912Y Tehran PARS in English 0702 GMT 31 Aug 78 LD

[Press review]

[Text] Tehran, 30 Aug, PANA (PARS News Agency)--Tehran's morning paper gave extensive coverage to the current official visit to Iran of His Excellency Hua Kuo-feng, chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

The morning daily AYANDEGAN, in an editorial entitled "A High Ranking Guest From China," writes that the visit of Hua Kuo-feng to Iran is of great international importance as Iran is the first non-communist country visited by the Chinese leader. The paper says that the relations between Iran and China are "exemplary." "Relations between the two countries have developed at a fantastic rate ever since China, a country with international responsibilities, realised the importance of Iran as an independent country in regional and international politics," writes AYANDEGAN. After mentioning the various visits by officials of both countries in the past, AYANDEGAN says that the current visit of Chairman Hua can undoubtedly be considered the "peak" in relations between the two countries. AYANDEGAN says that Hua, who has adopted "travel diplomacy" in the framework of China's policy of opening up to the world, is considered a "tradition breaker."

"While Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the late Chinese leader, preferred to receive the leaders of other countries at his residence in Peking, the present leader of China prefers to travel to other countries, including European ones," the paper says. AYANDEGAN writes that the three countries that Hua Kuo-feng has visited on his [word indistinct] trip, Romania, Yugoslavia and Iran, have different social orders but all have many points in common with China as far as (?foreign) policy is concerned.

"These countries are for peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect of the rights of one another, non-intervention in the internal affairs of others, respect for the territorial integrity of other countries and, most important of all, the condemnation of the policies of domination of any nation over any other," says the paper. AYANDEGAN adds that a series of economic, commercial and cultural agreements signed between these countries is a guarantee of the maintenance of good relations between the countries and can be considered as having given this framework of policies and beliefs a solid content. The paper says that each of these countries is important in the foreign policies of the others.

"China, especially since [word indistinct] moved ideology from its foreign policy, has no [word indistinct] to expanding relations with Iran--in fact, relations between Iran and China have expanded so fast that they can now be considered as among the best examples of cooperation on the international scene, and there is no doubt that many more opportunities for expanding relations between the two countries will be seized in the future," concludes the paper.

Another Persian language daily, RASTAKHIZ, also comments on the current visit of Hua Kuo-feng to Iran in its editorial and says that it is the first time that the leader of the most populous country, one of the biggest countries in the world, is visiting our country. "This visit can be considered as the beginning of a new chapter in the relations between the two countries," writes the paper. RASTAKHIZ says that international political circles and the mass media are closely following Chairman Hua Kuo-feng's visit and consider his visit to Iran as "very important." The paper writes that the fact that Chairman Hua came to Iran after visiting Romania and Yugoslavia shows the importance the Chinese leader accords Iran and the region.

There is no doubt that relations between the two countries, based on the clear and solid policy of respect for national interests, mutual benefits and the preservation of international peace and stability, will develop even further because of Hua Kuo-feng's visit to Iran. "Iran and China, two vast geographical [word indistinct] the east and west of Asia, have had strong political, economic and cultural relations throughout the (?centuries) and have influenced each other's cultures as well as those of other countries. They can at present expand these ties and accelerate constructive cooperation in all fields and play an important role in the preservation of security and stability in the region," concludes RASTAKHIZ.

The two English language dailies KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL and the Tehran JOURNAL also gave extensive coverage to the first day of Chairman Hua's visit to Iran and commented on the speeches made by the two leaders at the state banquet given in Hua Kuo-feng's honour at Golestan Palace. They both stressed the fact that China and Iran had similar policies concerning the region and that they both opposed big power interference in the region and underlined the fact that the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean should be regions of stability and security and that the preservation of this [word indistinct] should be the sole responsibility of the littoral states.

The French-language daily JOURNAL DE TEHRAN also stressed the similarities in the foreign policies of the two countries concerning the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean regions and the principles of noninterference and peaceful coexistence that Iran and China believed in.

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON RETURN OF SUSPECTED ARSONIST

LD301225Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 30 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Ja'far Sharif-Emami granted an interview on 30 August to our correspondent, explaining the government's efforts at reconciliation. Regarding yesterday's news, he said: [begin recording]

[Sharif-Emami] As I have already said, we have been in contact with the leading religious figures inside the country and have been talking with them. These contacts will continue and will be pursued, and needless to say we will try to come to an understanding with them. But we have not sent anyone abroad in order to contact anyone else. How did this idea come about? We have been told that one of the saboteurs who set fire to the Abadan Rex cinema had been arrested by the Government of Iraq in Baghdad and that the latter was ready to hand him over to us. Of course, we are truly grateful to the Government of Iraq for this.

We sent a special aircraft and a delegation yesterday to receive this saboteur and bring him to Iran. Those who heard this news, and about a delegation to receive the arrested man, thought that a delegation was going to Baghdad and Najaf to contact certain people there. However, we are still at a stage in which we should contact those who are inside the country, talk to them, prepare the ground and reach an understanding with them. Unfortunately, some newspapers have moved too fast and caused confusion and misunderstanding. But I am telling you clearly that this confusion stems from the fact that we sent a special plane to bring the arrested man from Baghdad.

I think that the current situation in the country is such that all individuals ought to feel responsibility and ought to help restore normality in the country, so that everybody might follow his own livelihood and so that the government might also reach a stage where it can render positive and constructive aid to the people.

But I must make this point: Some people make imaginary attacks on the government or accuse the government of certain acts. For example, it was rumored that the government set fire to the Rex cinema. I would be amazed if it were possible to find a person in the government who, while bearing responsibility for the country's administration, would commit such an act which would lead to the burning of a number of innocent people. The government is itself responsible for preserving order. Now that it has become clear, you will see how wrong and prejudicial these accusations were.

Another point I would like to make is: In recent days, some allegations have been made about me; things have been said that are totally devoid of truth. But they ought to know that I am by no means concerned about these allegations. And what I can (?truly) say to you is that I do not attach the smallest value to them. I will perform the important duty that has been imparted to me with utmost sincerity to the very end, and will not be afraid because of such slander.

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN OBSERVES 'PAKHTOONISTAN DAY' 31 AUGUST

BK310626Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 31 Aug 78 BK

[By Shan Alam]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 31 (AFP)--Afghanistan's leftist regime is observing today a 'Pakhtoonistan day' to project its campaign for the creation of a separate state for Pushtu speaking tribes of Pakistan.

A radio Kabul broadcast, monitored here last night, said the Afghan postal department was bringing out a special stamp and a 'Pakhtoonistan' (Pathan state) flag was to be hoisted in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on the occasion.

Observance of the Pakthoonistan day is sure to be viewed with concern in Pakistan which strongly resents Kabul's propaganda for "national rights" of Pathan and Baluch people residing in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier and Baluchistan provinces.

Islamabad regards as interference in its internal affairs the new Afghan regime's utterances about the "national rights" of a section of its citizens who freely voted for Pakistan in a referendum at the time of independence in 1947.

The Taraki regime has declined to abide by the understanding arrived at with Pakistan by the Daud regime and has said that the "only political difference" between the two countries should be resolved through negotiations on the basis of "national destiny" of the Pathan and Baluch people.

Observers feel an immediate motive behind the Pakhtoonistan campaign could be to divert public attention from the problems at home as the Soviet-backed leftist rulers of Afghanistan were facing opposition from orthodox sections in a state where religion has deep influence among the majority of the people.

There have been reports of clashes between security forces and Afghan tribesmen while factional disputes have continued in the ruling People's Democratic Party as is apparent from recent reshuffles in the junta and the disclosure of an attempted coup earlier this month.

Many religious personalities were reported to have fled Afghanistan and sought refuge in Pakistan tribal belts on the border.

FLOODS CAUSE 35 MILLION AFGHANIS WORTH OF DAMAGE

LDT301515Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 20 Aug 78 LD

[Summary] On the order of President Taraki, urgent relief aid has been sent by the Prime Ministry's accident operations department to the victims of recent floods in Ghazni and Vardak provinces.

According to another report, President Taraki's message of sympathy was communicated to the families of the victims by the governors of Ghazni, Vardak and Paktia provinces. President Taraki has also issued orders to the Afghan Red Crescent Society to render relief aid to the flood victims.

As a result of floods on 18 and 19 August in Jaji region of Paktia Province, 14 people were reported dead; the bodies of 9 have been found and the remaining 5 are reported lost. Similarly, 6 tents, 10 houses and 300 animals have been destroyed in Jaji. No accurate report of the damages has been obtained yet and a delegation has already begun work for this purpose.

It has been further reported that as a result of floods that took place on 17 and 18 August in Ghorband, 13 people were reported dead and 20 houses destroyed. Moreover, 20 shops and 500 animals were destroyed. The governor of Parvan said in an interview that the bodies of four people have been found so far. Financial damage inflicted by the floods in Ghorband is estimated at 35 million Afghanis.

Floods that took place in Sorkh-Va Parsa have caused the death of one person and considerable damage to farms and animals. One person has been reported dead as a result of floods in Tagab, and the road between Tagab and Nejrab has been damaged.

OIL CAKE DELIVERY AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR

LDT300952Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1530 GMT 16 Aug 78 LD

[Text] An Agreement worth over $400,000 on the sale of 400 tons of oil cake was signed between the Spinzar Company and the Soviet trade firm VOSTOKINTORG in Kabul today. The agreement was signed on behalf of the SPINZAR Company by the director of that company, 'Abdollah Amin, and on behalf of the Soviet VOSTOKINTORG trade firm by its senior representative in Kabul, (Afanaseyev). The relevant documents were then exchanged.

A Spinzar Company spokesman said: According to this agreement the said quantity of oil cake will be delivered to the representative of the Soviet VOSTOKINTORG at Shir Khan Bandar between 23 August and 23 October this year.

BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH, PRC SIGN AGREEMENT ON JUTE TRADE

BK301612Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh will export 15,000 tons of raw jute worth about 95.2 million taka to China under a contract signed in Dacca today. The chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Export Corporation and the leader of the Chinese trade delegation, Mr Kung Ching-hai, signed the contract on behalf of their governments.

SANGBAD ATTACKS AGREEMENT WITH U.S. ON PEACE CORPS

BK301340Y Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 22 Aug 78 p 4 BK

[Article by Charan: "The Peace Corps Is Coming"]

[Excerpts] In the past few days an unprecedented agitation has started in Dacca, capital of Bangladesh, on the question of the Peace Corps. An agreement on this subject, was signed between Bangladesh and the United States in Washington on 29 July. As a result of the agreement, several hundred U.S. Peace Corps volunteers will come to Bangladesh.

As soon as the report on the agreement to bring Peace Corps volunteers to Bangladesh was revealed, a wave of protest demonstrations swept Dacca. [paragraph continues]

Registering their protest, different groups and people described the decision of the government as an attempt to provide an opportunity to foreigners to interfere in the sovereignty of Bangladesh.

The agreement was signed by Bangladesh Ambassador M.R. Siddiqui. But whether or not there is an agreement, why should the Peace Corps volunteers come to this country? Why do we need them? However, Mr M.R. Siddiqui has not said anything about this. Despite countrywide protests, the Bangladesh Government has also not uttered a single word so far.

The U.S. authorities had been trying for some time to send their "peace doves" to several countries in the world, including India, but have been unsuccessful. These countries all refused to grant permission to Peace Corps volunteers to enter their countries. But it is not known why the Bangladesh Government has all of a sudden become so sympathetic toward them. Should we then presume that Mr Siddiqui has signed the agreement under pressure? If this is a fact, then what is that pressure? If no pressure has been applied, why did we sign the agreement?

Mr Siddiqui is a wise man. Apart from his knowledge in trade, he has great experience in politics. It cannot be imagined that to such a veteran politician the background of the Peace Corps was unknown. The people of the country would surely like to know why he has invited a calamity on his own initiative.

Once before, in the 60's during the Pakistan regime, the Peace Corps volunteers came to this country. One of its volunteers, known as Robert Crook, was finally expelled from Pakistan for his objectionable movements and activities. We also used to see another person known as William Gooth working at Lubdhak, a so-called progressive movie organization, whose activities and movements were unquestionably objectionable. Mr Gooth could freely enter any institution and meet anyone he wished. He spoke Bengali with an American accent. Questions were raised at that time about his activities and he too finally had to leave this country.

No one can say if the CIA has done anything good for any nation, but they can easily give accounts of miseries it brought a large number of countries. Therefore, it remains a mystery why, after knowing everything, the government has allowed the CIA to come to Bangladesh?

At present the Bangladesh Government is always talking about nationalism and loudly warning the people against the influence of foreign "isms." Under which "ism" then does its step of bringing the Peace Corps volunteers to this country fall?

The progressive members in the Bangladesh Council of Ministers have so far said nothing about this. On earlier occasions they were considered experts in progressive utterances. Then why have they remained silent today? They should spell out to the public if there is any genuine reason for the Peace Corps volunteers to come to this country. Otherwise, those honorable persons will not have any guarantee of peace after the return of the Peace Corps volunteers to the soil of Bangladesh. Therefore, something must be done before the situation takes a serious turn.

While the people are demanding the revocation of the agreement, the government, especially President Ziaur Rahman, speaks of democracy. But allowing foreign volunteers to come to the soil of a sovereign state or signing an agreement in this regard, is contrary to the definition of democracy.

The Bangladesh Government should go deep into the whole matter and reveal the truth to the public. When public opinion is so strong against the Peace Corps, its presence in that country will not be very happy. Therefore, isn't it desirable that the agreement be revoked?

INDIA

FOREIGN MINISTER VAJPAYEE INJURED IN DELHI CLASH

BK310916Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The Lok Sabha today condemned the violent incident that took place a short while ago at the boat club near Parliament House when the external affairs minister was hurt. Mr Vajpayee went to address a gathering of students who came to submit a memorandum to the speaker expressing their concern over the double murder in the capital on Saturday last.

With his head bleeding and clothes stained with blood, Mr Vajpayee entered the house and narrated the incident. He said that some 20 to 30 persons belonging to Congress-I came to his jeep and started manhandling him. When they were prevented from this by the police, they started throwing stones in which he was hurt.

Mr Kunwarlal Gupta, Janata, who was an eyewitness to the incident, gave a detailed account. He said that he could identify the persons who attacked as belonging to the Congress-I. This was, however, denied by some Congress-I members. The deputy speaker and representatives of all parties strongly condemned the incident.

Hundreds of Delhi University students today boycotted their classes and marched to the residence of the police commissioner of Delhi. They were protesting against the delay in tracing the killers of Geeta Chopra, a Delhi University student, and her brother.

INDIA WILLING TO DISCUSS PAKISTAN FORCE PROPOSAL REDUCTION

BK301554Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 78 BK

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India has never refused to discuss with Pakistan the proposal for the reduction of the armed forces of the two countries. He was answering questions on the reported remark of the Pakistan foreign affairs adviser, Mr Agha Shahi, about the proposal in Karachi yesterday.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO UK OVER TREATMENT OF DETAINED SAILORS

BK310910Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Aug 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi has conveyed its resentment to the British Government over the treatment meted out to Indian sailors held in detention in that country. The detention followed the dispute between the sailors and the captain of a Greek ship on the wages and service condition.

Making a statement in the Rajya Sabha, the external affairs minister said that what has caused justifiable concern is the handcuffing of the dismissed sailors. The British Government has been asked for an assurance that Indian nationals will not be subjected to such indignity again.

Mr Vajapayee defended the Indian High Commission in London against criticism in the press and parliament for its handling of the case. He said right from the time it was told of the detention, the high commission made efforts with the British auth ity, the shipping line concerned and the sailors to resolve the problem.

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